



Overhead Hazard

Incident Significance

What: Angle iron support fell ~65' narrowly missing employee below

When:

Date: 12/8/2004

Time: 08:30am

Where:

Location: RPH, G-17 Upper Bracket access cover down to Scroll Case

Significance:

Safety: Potential for serious injury

Description of Incident

During removal of the first access cover on top of the air housing of G-17 a piece of support bracket fell (~65ft) and bounced into the unit falling down into the work area of the contractor. The 14 lb piece of angle iron went through the access opening in the turbine pit and hit the grating coming to rest on the work platform in the scroll case. An employee of the turbine upgrade contractor was within 3-4 feet of the impact area. The employee removing the access cover blind screws did not anticipate the bracket underneath falling. It was a potential hazard created by previous modification to the access cover support structure.

Possible Hazards

Had the employee been struck, fatal injury could have resulted.

Recommendations for preventing reoccurrence

All maintenance employees should be aware of this modification and make sure all personnel are clear underneath this hazard. A work order to correct the problem is being developed. When work is being conducted that could present an overhead hazard to employees below, proper work planning should include protecting all access zones within the hazard area. Use proper warning signs and warning tape along with warning affected crews. Employees can be oblivious to overhead work unless proper warning methods are employed using RSHS Section 9 Signs, Signals, and Barricades. This is the second close call involving overhead hazards in less than a month. The safety office is aware of at least 5 cases in the past year and a half of items falling in the power houses. Two bolts have fallen from cranes, LPH Crane #1 and a Machine shop crane. A piece of a braking mechanism fell from a RPH Morgan # 1 or 2 and landed in the bottom of G-12 just missing a contractor employee. Last month a piece of wiring fell from the LPH crane balcony and just missed a BOR inspector. Take a few extra minutes to plan your work and let's stop these close calls before someone is seriously injured.

